

C l a i m s

1. A method of reducing the oxygen content of seawater,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that seawater is
introduced into the upper part (14) of a downcomer (12),
5 whereby a pressure drop arises, especially in the upper
part (14), facilitating the release of gases from the
seawater, the separated gas being able to leave the
seawater after flowing through the downcomer (12)
together with the seawater.
- 10 2. A method according to Claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that nitrogenous
gas is added to the ballast water at the upper part
(14).
- 15 3. A method according to Claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the seawater
is made to flow via the downcomer to the lower part (15)
of the downcomer (12) and preferably in the horizontal
direction into the upper part (18) of a vertical
separating pipe (16), the released gases being extracted
20 through an extraction pipe (20) coupled to the upper
part (18) at a slightly higher level than that of the
point of connection of the downcomer (12) to the
separating pipe (16), and where the seawater is led out
of the lower portion of the separating pipe (16).
- 25 4. A device for reducing the oxygen content of seawater,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the device
comprises a downcomer (12) designed to receive seawater
through its upper part (14).
- 30 5. A device according to Claim 4,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the upper part
(14) of the downcomer (12) communicates with a gas pipe

(15), where the gas pipe (15) is arranged to deliver nitrogenous gas to the downcomer (12).

6. A device according to Claim 4,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that a water supply
5 (10) is connected to the upper part (14) of a downcomer (12), the lower part (15) of the downcomer (12) being coupled, preferably in the horizontal direction, to the upper part (18) of a vertical separating pipe (16),
10 wherein the upper part (18) is coupled to an extraction pipe (20) at a slightly higher level than that of the point of connection of the downcomer (12) to the separating pipe (16).

7. A device according to Claim 6,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the connection
15 between the downcomer (12) and the separating pipe (16) is tangential.

8. A device according to Claim 6,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the lower part
of the separating pipe (16) discharges into the ballast
20 tank (4) of a ship (1).